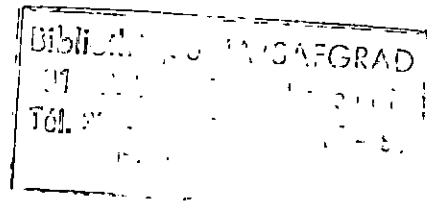


# Organization of African Unity Organisation de l'Unité Africaine

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## FIELD TRIP REPORT

SAFGRAD PROGRAMME  
EASTERN AFRICA

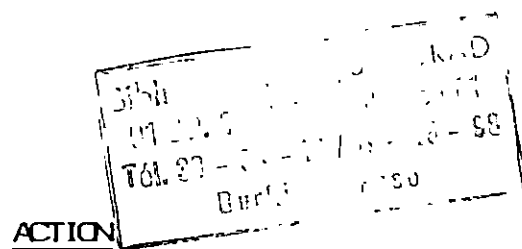
By

TAYE BEZUNEH  
DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH

AUGUST 7, 1985

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SAFGRAD PROGRAMME  
EASTERN AFRICA



DATE

ACTION

19/07/1985

Arrived Abidjan

20/07/1985

Arrived Nairobi

22/07/1985

Arrived Soroti, Uganda - Flying School  
and registration for SAFGRAD/ICRISAT  
Sorghum -Millet Fourth Regional Conference

I. 22 - 26 July 85      THE FOURTH REGIONAL WORKSHOP  
ON SORGHUM AND MILLET IN EASTERN AFRICA

The meeting was held at Soroti Flying School in Uganda. Over 45 participants from 14 different countries attended the meeting. It was officially opened by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Regional Cooperation of Uganda. The background and purpose of the workshop was outlined by the regional SAFGRAD/ICRISAT Sorghum-Millet Coordinator. The SAFGRAD Director of Research also made brief remarks on the needs for regional cooperation among sub-regional units. He also noted that the current Eastern African sorghum and millet regional network activities could be taken as a model to facilitate the improvement of the Semi-Arid Food Grains. The simple administrative approach and direct interaction of scientist to scientist have contributed to the apparent sorghum and millet network in the region. The admittance of Uganda as the 26 member of SAFGRAD was disclosed.

As in the previous years, the first day of the workshop was devoted to the presentation of technical papers on sorghum and millet research in Uganda. Participants that came from outside Uganda were impressed by the amount and level of research activity that was carried out at Serere Research Station. Several technical papers covering breeding agronomy and crop protection were discussed.

The sorghum and millet improvement technical papers presented by scientists from different countries (known as country papers) including those delivered by internationally noted scientists were equally interesting and useful to all participants. Such scientific interaction seems to have given additional impetus and inspiration to the success of

sorghum and millet research workers in the region.

Full day was devoted to field visits including the regionally noted Serere Agricultural Research Station. The director of the station briefed participants on the historical development of the Serere Research Station. Initially (between 1919 to 1954) the thrust of research activity of the station was on cotton. It was reported that Uganda was leading cotton producer in East Africa. Sorghum and millet research was started about 30 years ago. The Serere Research Station is located at about 1,000 m above sea level near Serere village. It has similar climate to that of Guinea Savanna ecological zone with an average rainfall of 1,350 mm/year and mean temps of 25°C. The station has about 1,100 acres of land that is currently used for cereals (sorghum, millet, maize ect) livestock and cotton research and seed production. About 30 years of agro-meteorological data is available at the research station. About 35 (most of them young at BSc & MSc level) full time scientific staff and 200 technical support staff currently constitute the Serere station research cadre. Since early 1970, this and other agricultural research stations in Uganda have continued to face various problems including financial resources and an acute shortage of senior research staff. IDRC was commended for its continued selective research support to Serere research programme particularly since 1971.

The Serere station being one of the oldest in the region did develop several varieties of sorghum and finger millet. For example, sorghum varieties such as Serere, Soredo, Lulu were released some years ago.

This season (1985) the following sorghum trials are being conducted :

- . District Variety Trial - materials consisting of hybrids and other crosses.
- . Early maturing lines
- . SAFGRAD/ICRISAT - regional trials
- . Eastern Africa - regional nursery evaluation coordinated by SAFGRAD/ICRISAT
- . Grain quality sorghum trials

The millet trials also comprised of comprehensive entries and intercropping trials. Several farm implements that were developed many

years ago for oxen-cultivation were demonstrated. It is interesting to note that a considerable number of Ugandan Farmers are using animal traction. It would be interesting to try the plow, seeder, tooth harrow and fertilizer applicator elsewhere.

26/07/85

Four special papers i.e on sorghum nutrition and utilization, the quelea pest bird control strategies on pearl millet improvement and global view of sorghum diseases were read by noted scientists. Interesting discussions that followed the above papers showed the usefulness of the occasional interaction and exchange of views with scientists outside Africa.

The general discussions on various topics focussed on ways and means to strengthen the existing sorghum and millet research network through direct support to national programmes. It was suggested that workshop of this nature should also address specific themes related to improvement of sorghum and millet such as postharvest loss. Finally, it was agreed that the next Eastern Africa sorghum and millet workshop to be held in Burundi.

At the workshop dinner, the closing remarks were made by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Regional Development by SAFGRAD Director of Research and by the Regional Sorghum and Millet Coordinator.

27/07/85

About 11.30 a.m participants luckily departed for Nairobi with a chartered flight.

II - 29/07/85

#### AGROFORESTRY COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH

15.00 - 17.30 p.m - Meeting with the officials of the International Council for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF)

Present were : Dr B. Lundgren, Director  
 Dr Ester Zulberti, Training Officer  
 Dr Filmon Torres, in charge of Collaborative Programmes and  
 Dr Taye Bezuneh, Director of Research, SAFGRAD

The purpose of the meeting was to initiate a collaborative research programme between ICRAF and SAFGRAD. Similar to SAFGRAD, ICRAF is a non-profit scientific organization in Agroforestry.

It was established in 1977 with ultimate objective "to improve the nutritional, economic and social well being of peoples of developing countries by the promotion of agroforestry systems designed to result in better land use with detriment to the environment". The director of ICRAF briefly pointed out the purpose of the meeting was to explore collaborative research with SAFGRAD in general and its FSR programmes in particular (in Burkina Faso, Benin and Cameroon) currently supported by IFAD. I also briefed ICRAF - director and other staff at the meeting about SAFGRAD research programme and networking activities. In order to develop the specific ICRAF and SAFGRAD collaborative programme, the following points were outlined for discussion.

- . Type of the programme
- . Objectives
- . Input requirements to the programme
- . Programme plan and Implementation schedule.

30/07/85 - ~~ICRAF SAFGRAD MEETING~~ - 9.00 - 11.35 a.m

As the discussion progressed, it was agreed that initial project paper be developed (reported separately) to serve as working document. As soon as fund for the project is approved components of the programme activities would be :

- . To initiate a diagnosis study with SAFGRAD on-going FSR, in the three countries. The purpose of the trip is to identify constraints with national scientists in order to integrate agro-forestry research to existing FSR activities.
- . To survey and understand the desired institutional arrangement for agroforestry research.
- . The recruitment of agroforestry research coordinator and experts to be attached to SAFGRAD-FSR.

- . To follow orientation and training programme for recruited scientists and national counterparts.
- . To organize joint annual workshop - ICRAF/SAFGRAD.
- . The development of the project.
- . The implementation of the project. Finally, it was agreed that initial ICRAF/SAFGRAD working document be prepared for further discussion.

01/08/85

DISCUSSION ON ICRAF/SAFGRAD COLLABORATIVE  
COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMME DOCUMENT (9.00 - 11.00)

The draft working document was discussed. It was proposed that this collaborative programme could be initiated sometime in 1985. Tentative budget was estimated. Both institutions agreed that the proposal be sent to IFAD for its initial consideration.

III - THE SAFGRAD DROUGHT SYMPOSIUM

While in Nairobi, I contacted the following organizations in order to make arrangements for the forthcoming Drought Symposium that will be held from 17 - 22 February, 1986 at Kenyatta International Conference Center.

30/07/85 - (9.30 - 10.30 p.m)

Meeting with Dr W.N. Masiga, Director IBAR/OAU/STRC  
Dr Brhane Gebrekidan, SAFGRAD/ICRISAT Coordinator

Among the issues discussed was the set-up of local organizing committee. Dr Masiga, pointed out that he had officially contacted the Kenya Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Agriculture. (Annex 1 - letters). Before this meeting, I was able to meet with Dr W.W. WAPAKALA, Director of Agricultural Research of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock. He stressed that a local organizing committee be established.

After a lengthy consultation, with him, the OAU/STRC/  
IBAR office and SAFGRAD/ICRISAT Regional Coordinator, the following

composition of the local organizing committee was proposed.

Local organizing committee

. OAU/STRC IBAR, Director	Chairman
. SAFGRAD/ICRISAT Coordinator	Vice Chairman
. Representative of Foreign Affairs	Member
. Representative of Research Division of Ministry of Agric. & Livestock	"
. Faculty of Agric. Univ. of Nairobi	"
. UNEP Representative	"
. KARI Representative	"
. SAFGRAD Coordination Office	"

The first meeting of the local organizing committee is schedule to take place between 16 - 21 September 1985.

30/07/85 MEETING AT AFRICAN OFFICE OF THE MINISTRY  
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

A follow up of the letters of official request made earlier was made. I was informed by the above office that should consider the request approved.

01/08/85 MEETING AT THE OFFICIALS OF KENYATTA INTERNATIONAL  
CONFERENCE CENTER

Dr Masiga, Director of IBAR, Dr Brhane Gebrekidan, SAFGRAD/ICRISAT Sorghum and Millet Research Coordinator for Eastern Africa, and myself made contacts with officials of K.I.C.C. to finalize the conference arrangements. We were informed that rooms for the meeting were booked as requested earlier. The management of K.I.C.C informed us that OAU/rates of fees would be applicable. It was agreed that Dr Masiga, Director of IBAR would follow the matter.

Afternoon

A meeting was held with ICRC regional director and the agronomist for possible research support. The Eastern Africa sorghum and millet

annual workshop was supported by IDRC during the last two years. Discussion centered on possible support to SAFGRAD in soil-water management research and networking. It was agreed to follow up the matter when the same director assumes his responsibility at West African Regional IDRC Office (Dakar, Senegal)

02/08/85

Left Nairobi at 13.15 for Abidjan. The flight via Kinshasa had problems and as result spent the night there. The time was well spent writing portion of this report.

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*Organisation of African Unity*

S. T. R. C.

Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources

1985  
The Director  
IBAR/NAIP/OP  
Telephone: 336744 Telex: 22593 Nairobi



14  
I.B.A.R.  
P.O. Box 30786  
NAIROBI  
Kenya

Out Ref: OAC/STRC/18

Date: 18 July 1985

The Permanent Secretary  
Ministry of Agricultural & Livestock Development  
P.O. Box 30028  
Nairobi

Attention: Mr W.W.W. Wapakala, Director of Research

Further to your earlier communication with Dr Brhane Gebrekidan, SAFGRAD Co-ordinator for Sorghum and Millets for Eastern and Southern Africa about the subject, I wish to confirm that the International Drought Symposium on Food Grain Production in Semi-Arid Regions of Sub-Saharan Africa is planned to be held in Nairobi from 17 - 22 February, 1986. As you know the Eastern/Southern Africa steering committee (Kenya, Ethiopia, Botswana, and SAFGRAD) of which Mr Frederick N. Muchena represented Kenya met in Nairobi in mid-February 1985 and submitted its report on 20 February, 1985. SAFGRAD has now released a brochure (copy enclosed) announcing the planned International Drought Symposium.



The main objectives of the symposium are:

1. To review and document the current state of knowledge on food grain production, with special reference to sub-Saharan Africa, and thus to foster national agricultural research policy changes that will favour agricultural development in the semi-arid regions.
2. To inventory current research activities on food grains, especially those whose major focus is to develop agronomic-techniques which sustain good yields under drought stress.
3. To synthesize technological data and policy information relevant to developing region research strategies and programs which counteract the short- and long-term effects of drought on food grain production.

4. To promote the exchange of technical knowledge leading to the establishment of permanent and appropriate dry-land farming practices in drought-prone areas.
5. To identify research gaps and needs on food grain production.

More details on the background, objectives, main contents and formats of the symposium are contained in the enclosed brochure.

As you know to make the symposium a success we have to have a good local organizing committee. In addition to Mr F.N. Muchena and Dr Brhane Gebrekidan we need three more persons to constitute the local organizing committee. This is, therefore, to request you to nominate three appropriate persons to serve in the said committee.

W.N. Masiga  
Director

Enclosure

# Organisation of African Unity

S. T. R. C.

Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources

All correspondence should be  
addressed to the Director  
Cable IBAR NAIROBI  
Telephone 338544, Telex 22893 Nairobi



I.B.A.R.

P.O. Box 30786  
NAIROBI  
Kenya

Our Ref: OAU/STRC/18

Date 18 July 1985

The Permanent Secretary  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
of the Republic of Kenya  
P.O. Box 30551  
Nairobi, Kenya

The Organization of African Unity presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kenya and has the honour to inform the latter that the Semi-Arid Food Grains Research and Development Project (SAFGRAD) of the Scientific, Technical and Research Commission (STRC) of the former is planning to convene an International Drought Symposium on Food Grain Production in Semi-Arid Regions of Sub-Saharan Africa from 17 - 22 February, 1986. Nairobi has been chosen as the venue of the proposed symposium with either UNEP or KICC as the meeting place. The Organization expects about 130 participants, mostly from sub-Saharan Africa, to take part and will cover all costs of the symposium.

The main objectives of the symposium are:

1. To review and document the current state of knowledge on food grain production, with special reference to sub-Saharan Africa, and thus to foster national agricultural research policy changes that will favour agricultural development in the semi-arid regions.
2. To inventory current research activities on food grains especially those whose major focus is to develop agronomic-techniques which sustain good yields under drought stress.
3. To synthesize technological data and policy information relevant to developing regional research strategies and programs which counteract the short- and long-term effects of drought on food grain production.

4. To promote the exchange of technical knowledge leading to the establishment of permanent and appropriate dry-land farming practices in drought-prone areas.
5. To identify research gaps and needs on food grain production.

More detailed information about the symposium is given in the attached brochure.

The OAU would therefore like to request the approval and the support of the Government of the Republic of Kenya to hold this important symposium here in Nairobi.

The Organization of African Unity avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kenya the assurances of its highest consideration.



W.N. Masiga  
Director

cc: The Permanent Secretary  
Ministry of Agriculture & Livestock Development  
Attention: Director of Research Development

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Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture (DREA)

African Union Specialized Technical Office on Research and Development

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1985-08

# SAFGRAD PROGRAMME EASTERN AFRICA

Bezuneh, Taye

OUA/CSTR-SAFGRAD

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